

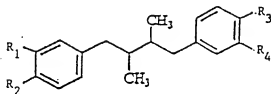
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for treating leukemia, said method ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of the steps of: (a) providing a composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of an effective amount of a compound of formula



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ ~~are identical and independently~~ represent -OH, -OCH₃, -O(C=O)CH₃, or a substituted or unsubstituted amino acid residue or salt thereof, but are not each -OH simultaneously; and optionally one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or carriers; and (b) administering the composition to an individual in need of treatment.

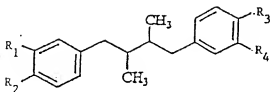
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the individual is a mammal.

11-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said mammal is a human.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is administered along with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said excipient or carrier is dimethylsulfoxide.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is tetra-O-methyl nordihydroguaiaretic acid or *meso*-1,4-bis[3,4-(dimethylaminoacetoxy)phenyl]-(2R,3S)-dimethylbutane.
- 21-31. (Cancelled)
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the effective amount of the compound is selected from the group consisting of: at least 20 μ M, at least 40 μ M, at least 60 μ M, at least 80 μ M and at least 100 μ M.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the effective amount of the compound is selected from the group consisting of at least about 10 μ M, at least about 20 μ M, at least about 30 μ M, at least about 40 μ M, at least about 50 μ M, at least about 60 μ M, at least about 70 μ M, at least about 80 μ M, at least about 90 μ M, and at least about 100 μ M.
34. (New) A method for treating leukemia, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing a composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are identical and represent a substituted or unsubstituted amino acid residue or salt thereof, and (b) administering the composition to an individual in need of treatment.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the individual is a mammal.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said mammal is a human.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said compound is administered along with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.